

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN COMMENTS ON KOREAN ARMISTICE

REF: (A) USUN 4519; (B) SEOUL 6782

1. ACCORDING TO MOFA UN DIVISION, TAPE OF KIM YONG-NAM PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B) CONTAINS FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ARMISTICE. (QUESTION IS INFORMAL MOFA TRANSLATION FROM KOREAN; ANSWER IS VERBATIM FROM ENGLISH INTERPRETATION AT PRESS CONFERENCE).
QUESTION: AS IS WILL KNOWN, IF THE UN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH KOREA AND THE UN FLAG IS REMOVED, DO YOU THINK THAT THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT STILL REMAINS IN FORCE OR WHAT IS THE DPRK POSITION ON THIS PROBLEM?
MR. KIM: QUOTE THE SIGNATORIES TO THE KOREAN ARMISTICE ARE THE DPRK AND THE UN FORCES. TO BE MOST PRECISE, THAT IS THE US WHO HAVE THE UN MEN. THE SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ARE NOT CONNECTED. THAT IS WHY, WHEN THE UN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN AND FOREIGN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH KOREA THEN THE PROBLEM OF KOREAN ARMISTICE SHOULD BE AGAIN CONSULTED. THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT "SHOULD BE DEFEATED" (SIC. MORE CORRECT

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INTERPRETATION IS "WOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH") AUTO-

MATICALLY WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF UN FORCES. THAT IS WHY WE PROPOSED, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, TO HAVE A TALK WITH THE US TO REPLACE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WITH A PEACE AGREEMENT. UNQUOTE.

2. MOFA WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL CONCERNED SAID HE BELIEVES TRANSCRIPT CONTAINING THIS EXCERPT IN BOTH KOREAN AND ENGLISH HAS BEEN SENT TO ROK MISSION IN NEW YORK. HE BELIEVES, AS REF A SUGGESTS, THAT STATEMENT CAN BE USED TO ADVANTAGE IN LOBBYING EFFORT.
SNEIDER

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